



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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## **HOGSETT PRESENTS U.S. ATTORNEY'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO RIGHTS OF VICTIMS TO REV. CAPTAIN TERRI THORN**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - In celebration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, today recognized Rev. Captain Terri Thorn, Chaplain, Whitestown Police Department, as a recipient of the United States Attorney's Carol S. Morris Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Rights of Victims.

This is a special award given annually by the United States Attorney's Office to honor individuals whose commitment and effort impacts the lives of crime victims in Indiana. It reflects the nation's heightened awareness of the devastating impact of crime and violence on its victims, while underscoring the importance of helping victims heal and rebuild their lives.

In January 2009, Dennis R. Anderson, Chief, Whitestown Police Department, appointed the Reverend Terri Thorn as Chaplain of the Department with the honorary rank of Captain. Rev. Thorn provides assistance and emotional support to residents, as well as victims of crime; offers emotional and spiritual support to officers and their families; develops plans and programs to foster relationship-building in the community; conducts crisis debriefings and assists with post-crisis stress management for the Department; and presents workshops on various topics as requested or needed.

In early 2010, Rev. Thorn, who is currently a volunteer, spent nearly four weeks working full-time to assist the families of a triple homicide in Whitestown. She facilitated communication between the victims' families and the investigators, offering hours of pastoral listening to the families and assisting them in every step of planning a funeral, sorting through possessions and completing legal steps need to bring closure to the family. Rev. Thorn officiated at the funeral service of one of the homicide victims, and assisted in the arrangements of getting the other two victims back to their homeland for burial. Rev. Thorn also provided pastoral

support to the family of a domestic murder case by appearing with them in court, numerous phone calls and notes of encouragement. As Chaplain, Rev. Thorn has responded to runs for domestic violence, suicidal subject, elderly welfare checks and possible child neglect cases, bringing a calm presence to these circumstances.

The U.S. Attorney's Award was established in the Southern District of Indiana in 1991 to recognize those persons who have made significant contributions in the lives of crime victims. The mission of National Crime Victim's Rights Week is to provide a time of nationwide remembrance, reflection and re-commitment for crime victims, survivors and those who serve them in order to raise individual and public awareness about the rights and needs of victims.

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